

Message Text

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ACTION OES-09

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SOE-02 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 DOE-15 H-01 INR-10 INT-05
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-05 ICA-11 SP-02
SS-15 STR-07 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 NRC-05 /133 W
-----067032 182035Z /43

R 141100Z JUL 78
FM AMCONSUL BOMBAY
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8422
INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMCONSUL CALCUTTA POUCH
AMCONSUL MADRAS POUCH

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E.O. 11652 N/A
TAGS: TECH, ENRG, IN
SUBJ: GE STUDY FOR INCREASING TARAPUR SPENT FUEL STORAGE SPACE

1. CLINT BASTIN OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY (DOE), AND THE GE TEAM OF EDWARD GRIMM AND PAUL SUN, COMPLETED A TWO-DAY PRESENTATION AND REVIEW WITH THE ATOMIC POWER AUTHORITY (APA) OF THE GE FINAL DESIGN PROPOSALS FOR INTERIM RACKS FOR THE TARAPUR STORAGE POOLS ON JULY 13. THEY ALSO DISCUSSED PLANS FOR REMOVING SOME EXISTING RACKS AS WELL AS A SUBSTANTIAL AMOUNT OF MISCELLANEOUS HARDWARE FROM THE POOLS WHICH MUST PRECEDE THE INSTALLATION OF NEW RACKS. THE VISITORS CONCLUDED AND THE APA OFFICIALS AGREED THAT NEW RACKS COULD BE INSTALLED BY THE FEBRUARY 1979 DATE FOR THE NEXT REFUELLING BUT INTENSIVE AND ACCELERATED MEASURES WILL BE REQUIRED FROM THE APA AND GE WILL HAVE TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL HZLP IF THIS SCHEDULED IS TO BE MET. APA CHAIRMAN J.C. SHAH MAINTAINS THERE IS NO POSSIBILITY OF PUTTING OFF THE REFUELLING BEYOND THE FEBRUARY DATE BECAUSE THE TARAPUR OPERATION HAS ALREADY BEEN STRETCHED TO ITS LIMIT.

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2. THE GE DESIGN FOR INTERIM RACKS CALLS FOR INSTALLATION OF TWO STAINLESS STEEL STRUCTURES EACH PROVIDING SPACE FOR 144 BUNDLES. THESE RACKS WOULD PROVIDE SPACE FOR FOUR NORMAL REFUELLINGS COVERING ABOUT TWO YEARS OPERATION OF NJZF TWIN REACTORS. THE GE TEAM CONFIRMED AFTER DISCUSSION WITH THREE LOCAL FABRICATORS THAT THESE RACKS CAN BE BUILT IN INDIA FROM INDIGENOUSLY SUPPLIED STAINLESS STEEL.

3. GE EXPECTS TO SUBMIT DESIGN FOR COMPLETE RERACKING OF BOTH POOLS WITH BORAL MATERIAL BY NEXT MAY. THE BORAL RACKS WILL PROVIDE 1960 SPACES THUS APPROXIMATELY TRIPLING PRESENT STORAGE CAPACITY. THE ADDITIONAL SPACE SHOULD TAKE CARE OF DISCHARGES UP TO 1986 OR POSSIBLY 1987.

4. IF SCHEDULE FOR PLACEMENT OF THE STAINLESS STEEL INTERIM RACKS IS TO BE MET THEN CUTTING TOOLS WILL HAVE TO BE AIR-FREIGHTED BEFORE THE END OF AUGUST, TENDERS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW RACKS MUST BE PUT OUT BEFORE MID-AUGUST, AND A CONTRACTOR SELECTED BEFORE THE END OF THAT MONTH. IT IS ALSO CLEAR THAT GE TECHNICIANS WILL BE NEEDED IN INDIA TO HELP WITH THE REMOVALS FROM THE POOLS AND THEY SHOULD ALSO BE AVAILABLE TO ADVISE THE CONTRACTOR ON BUILDING THE NEW RACKS. IN ORDER TO ENSURE TIGHTER CONTROL AND FULL ACCELERATION OF WORK SHAH SAID HE WILL BE APPOINTING A SINGLE OFFICER TO TAKE FULL CHARGE OF THE PROJECT AND TO DRAW UP A DETAILED TIME PHASE SCHEDULE FOR ITS COMPLETION.

5. SHAH AND IAEC CHAIRMAN SETHNA WHO RECEIVED A SUMMARY REPORT FROM THE TEAM AT THE CONCLUSION OF THEIR VISIT WERE BOTH PLEASED WITH THE TEAM'S WORK AND PROPOSALS. THEY GAVE EVERY SIGN OF INTENDING TO COOPERATE FULLY IN MEETING A VERY TIGHT SCHEDULE FOR INSTALLATION OF THE NEW RACKS.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: STORAGE, STUDIES, NUCLEAR FUELS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BOMBAY01734
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780295-0221
Format: TEL
From: BOMBAY
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780761/aaaabyyi.tel
Line Count: 95
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 2a199e73-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION OES
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2011627
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GE STUDY FOR INCREASING TARAPUR SPENT FUEL STORAGE SPACE
TAGS: TECH, ENRG, IN, GENERAL ELECTRIC
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/2a199e73-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014